

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06888 232044Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 /099 W

----- 039916

R 231956Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9847

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 6888

E O 11652 NA

TAGS PLOS CO VN

SUBJ: REACTION TO LOPEZ PROPOSAL FOR CONDOMINIUM IN GULF OF
VENEZUELA

REF BOGOTA 6851

1. CONSIDERABLE PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION TO PRES LOPEZ'
JULY 20 SPEECH TO CONGRESS HAS FOCUSED ON HIS PROPOSAL THAT THE
GULF OF VENEZUELA BE DECLARED A "HISTORIC BAY" AND THAT A
COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN CONDOMINIUM BE ESTABLISHED IN THE GULF.

COMMENTS FROM COLOMBIAN POLITICIANS OF ALL PERSUASIONS HAVE
BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE AND MOST AGREE THAT THE CODOMINIUM
PROPOSAL COULD EASE THE WAY FOR A LATER AGREEMENT ON DELIMITA-
TION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS, LONG A THORN IN COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN
RELATIONS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06888 232044Z

2. HECTOR CHARRY SAMPER EX-AMB TO VENEZUELA AND LIBERAL

CONGRESSMAN WHO IS CONSIDERED AN EXPERT ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SUPPORTED LOPEZ AND PROVIDED HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE PROPOSAL IN JULY 22 PRESS. ACCORDING TO CHARRY, THE KEY POINT IS THE DECLARATION OF A "HISTORIC BAY", WHICH WOULD, SHOULD VENEZUELA AGREE, GIVE COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA CONTROL OVER THE GULF IN THE SAME WAY THAT STATES EXERCISE CONTROL OVER INTERIOR SEAS. CITING A PRECEDENT, CHARRY SAID, "PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ANTECEDENT WAS THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL IN THE (GENEVA CONVENTION ON TERRITORIAL SEAS OF 1958) WHICH EXPRESSLY ALLUDED TO 'HISTORIC BAYS' SUCH AS THOSE OVER WHICH COASTAL STATES HAVE EXERCISED SOVEREIGN RIGHTS FOR PROLONGED PERIODS WITHOUT OBJECTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES; JUST AS IN THE CASE OF COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA." CHARRY OPINED THAT LOPEZ' PROPOSAL DID NOT CALL FOR "JOINT EXPLOITATION" BUT CONCERNED THE CONCEPT OF AN "INTERIOR SEA."

3. ON JULY 22 EMBOFF CALLED UNDERSECY FONSECA, THE FONOFF OFFICIAL DIRECTLY CHARGED WITH LOS MATTERS. FONSECA SAID CHARRY'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PRES'S STATEMENT WAS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE: THAT IF VENEZUELA AGREED TO THE CONDOMINIUM PROPOSAL THE TWO STATES WOULD SHARE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE BAY, AS IN AN INTERIOR SEA. THUS, HE CONFIRMED, WHAT HAD BEEN OPEN SEA WOULD BECOME THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE TWO STATES. FONSECA DOUBTED, PERSONALLY, WHETHER THE GULF OF VENEZUELA POSSESSED THE NECESSARY CONFIGURATION TO BE DECLARED A "HISTORIC BAY" BECAUSE OF THE WIDTH OF ITS MOUTH, ABOUT 50 MILES. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONTINUED IF BOTH STATES AGREED ON CONDOMINIUMS THE GULF WOULD BECOME AN "HISTORIC BAY" IN THE LEGISLATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, WATER BOUNDARIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA06888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-0102
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750727/aaaaaxwj.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BOGOTA 6851
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO LOPEZ PROPOSAL FOR CONDOMINIUM IN GULF OF VENEZUELA
TAGS: PLOS, CO, VE
To: STATE CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006